

Saturday, March 30, 1844.

The Great Anti-Texas Meeting.

The adjourned meeting of citizens opposed to the annexation of Texas, was held at College Hall, last Thursday evening. The House was filled to overflowing; and the greatest enthusiasm characterized the proceedings. The resolutions reported by the Committee appointed on the subject, were adopted, after appropriate discussion, and a few important amendments. In another column we insert the resolutions, as originally reported.

The report of the Committee having been read by the Secretary, [W. D. Gallagher], a division of the question was called for. The question was then stated by the Chairman, [Judge Wright], to be on the first resolution. Samuel Lewis rose and moved that the resolution be amended by striking out the following words, in the first resolution under the resolution:

"And therefore any addition to it should be regarded as a burden rather than a blessing. It could not add to our happiness and might lead to our ruin."

Mr. Lewis expressed his concurrence with the resolutions generally; his object was to make them as unexceptionable as possible. Many would oppose Texas, who would not say that a mere extension of our territory was undesirable. He, for his part, was not prepared to say any such thing.

Judge Walker, the Chairman of the Committee, took the stand, in opposition to the amendment, but as a general desire was expressed to have the discussion at once commence on the whole subject, before he proceeded, Mr. Lewis, wished to call his attention to two other amendments, which he designed to offer, as follows:

1st. Strike out in the 7th resolution, the words, "and will, we fear, result in civil war, if not in a dissolution of the Union."

2d. Strike out in the 8th resolution, the words, "and thus make it national."

In suggesting these amendments, he remarked, that the Constitution conferred upon the citizens of the free States power to redress in a peaceful way whatever grievances might follow the annexation, and that slavery, being already nationalized by the action of the Government, the 6th resolution, as it stood, conveyed an erroneous impression.

Judge Walker spoke at some length, in opposition to these amendments. He considered our territory large enough. History showed that overgrown territory had been fatal to all empires.

In reference to a dissolution of the Union, there once was a time when he could not have been persuaded to draft such a resolution. But the repeated threats from the South—and its overbearing conduct had taught us to calculate the value of the Union. He feared that this measure would result, as the resolution indicated, and therefore he would say so.

As to the third amendment, slavery was not now national, or at least, national in the sense it would be, if independent Texas were annexed to us—for the ground on which it was sought to be annexed, was openly, the perpetuation and extension of slavery alone.

He then proceeded to discuss the resolutions at large, founding his objections to the annexation, chiefly on the grounds, that it would be a violation of national faith; that it would be deeply humiliating to the American people; that it would be base and cowardly towards the weak Government of Mexico; and that the time and manner, of pushing this project, were there no other reasons, were conclusive against it.

Judge Walker spoke with earnestness, and when dwelling upon the character of the transaction, as it related to Mexico, with great force. He was frequently cheered in the course of his remarks.

Mr. Lewis had hoped that the amendments he had suggested would be adopted by the Committee; he would have been spared the necessity of making a speech. He now rose to show as briefly as possible the reasons why he wished them to pass.

He agreed with the gentleman, in regard to the lesson taught by history as to the effects of an overgrown territory. But, in the history of the world there had been no frame-work of Government like ours. Its peculiar form was especially adapted to extensive territory—and it was impossible to set limits to this adaptation.

For his part, he would not abandon one foot in Oregon, or refuse Texas, were there no slavery there, and no other objection to its annexation. On this point he spoke with eloquence, and the loud cheers of the meeting testified its sympathy with his sentiments.

On the second amendment suggested, he held that if the South believed us, it was no reason why we should bully them. He would not talk of civil war or dissolution. The Constitution conferred upon us power enough to redress all our grievances in peaceable modes. The ballot box was our great weapon. The audience again loudly applauded these sentiments.

On the third amendment he spoke at large, and, as all present will bear witness, with marked effect. Slavery had already been nationalized. The gentleman himself had admitted that the Slave Power had controlled the Government since its organization—and yet slavery was not national! He then went into a rapid review of the acts of the General Government—the admission of Louisiana and Florida—the establishment of several slave States—the establishment of slavery in the District of Columbia—the outrageous laws of the territory of Florida—the protection given to the coast-wise slave trade—the protest against the abolition of slavery in Cuba—the negotiations for the recovery of runaway slaves—its conduct in the Creole affair, &c., &c.—and yet slavery was not national!

We have seldom seen an audience so profoundly interested. The remarks were concise, pointed, eloquent and conclusive. They appeared to carry conviction to every mind. In fact, no one chose to reply to them. During their delivery, the cheers were frequent and enthusiastic.

Mr. Greene then addressed the meeting; his speech showed the results of much investigation into the history of our negotiations concerning Louisiana.

He spoke with great feeling and much energy. He occupied some time in endeavoring to obviate what he supposed to be the influence of Gen. Jackson's letter, just published upon the subject.

He was followed by Mr. Guilford, who made an able argument on the constitutional aspect of the question. His views were presented with much clearness and force.

Mr. Mansfield did not rise to make a speech, but to express his concurrence in the amendments of Mr. Lewis. His short remarks were better than a speech. They were warm, pointed and touched the popular feeling. Slavery was already nationalized; it could not be denied. The flag of the Union did not protect slavery at the seat of Government. As to our territory, he did not care if it extended to the setting sun; only, however, on condition that the National flag should float over none but FREEDMEN.

And whereas, though taken entirely by surprise and filled with amazement by the intelligence that so daring a scheme was possibly being consummated, before any remonstrance of the people could reach the Capital, we are nevertheless determined to raise our voice, in words of warning, if not too late, and of indignation, if the act be already done.

Therefore, be it Resolved, As the solemn and settled opinion of this meeting, that Texas ought not to be annexed to the United States, for the following reasons, namely:

1. Because our territory is already extensive enough to form, when fully peopled, the greatest empire on earth; and, therefore, any addition to it should be regarded as a burden rather than a blessing, and when this is the case, in matters of grave importance, certainly the safest course is not to act.

2. Because, even if the acquisition of more territory were desirable, it is a question of serious doubt, to say the least, whether there is any authority in the Constitution for making it in this instance; and when this is the case, in matters of grave importance, certainly the safest course is not to act.

3. Because, even if the authority were undoubted, we consider the time and manner of exercising it, in the present case, as in the highest degree objectionable. The SECRETARY so studiously observed in a matter of such deep concern, is an insult to the American people. They are treated as if they had no opinion to express, or no right to express one. And the haste has been such that they had been no time for the public to have made up a well considered opinion. There are deeds for which darkness and despatch are proper, but the enlargement of an empire is not one of them.

4. Because, the proposed annexation, if it involved no wrong to other nations, would place ours in a humiliating attitude, which ought to be mortifying to our national pride. When Texas, in 1837, was a petitioner to us, we gave a prompt and dignified refusal. The grounds of that refusal have not been changed; but men have changed, and now behold the United States a supplicant to Texas!

5. Because, the proposed annexation cannot take place without a breach of the National faith. Texas was originally a part of Mexico, and although we have recognized her independence, Mexico has not yet forgiven us for having an existing TARIFF OF COMMERCE AND A TARIFF, which will be directly violated by annexing to our domain, what she claims as part of hers. War must follow—on our part wholly justifiable, and on her part wholly unjustifiable. To say we have no right to feel from such a war, would be to compliment our prudence at the expense of our magnanimity. But we have the greatest of all things for a nation to fear—that of doing wrong. Nor could we expect other nations to entertain any sense of justice, to look on in silence.

6. Because, the result of the proposed annexation would be to enlarge, to an extent now undefinable, the domain of slavery; and while we claim no right to interfere with slavery in the States where it already exists, we not only claim the right, but we feel it a sacred duty, to resist its extension to any new territory, and thus make it national.

Resolved, That this question of annexation rises, in our opinion, above all party considerations, and that in our efforts to prevent it, we will appeal only to the eternal principles of justice, faith, and honor.

Resolved, That we exert the people every where throughout the land, to hold meetings and declare their opinions without delay, so that a voice may go up to Washington, which none will dare to disregard.

Resolved, That these proceedings be published in all the papers of the City, willing to give them a place; and that a copy of them be transmitted to the President of the Senate, and to each of our Senators in Congress, with a request that they may be considered as our memorial to the Senate, against the ratification of any Treaty for the annexation of Texas, which such a treaty be laid before that body.

T. WALKER, N. H. GUILFORD, J. H. PERKINS.

Foreign Arrival—O'Connell.

The steamer Catalina arrived at Boston the 23rd, bringing news from Liverpool to March 5th, and from London to March 4th.

The price of Cotton had fallen.

The repeal trials have resulted in a verdict of "Guilty" against all, except Mr. Tierney. Immense excitement and irritation had been created. It was currently reported that the Government did not intend to press for judgment.

O'Connell has, for himself and his associates, protested against the verdict. The rent for the week was announced at \$264 16s. 6d. A public meeting at Birmingham has been summoned by the Mayor, at which the Liberator is invited to attend. A dinner was to be given to him at Covent Garden Theatre, Tuesday the 12th inst.

In Parliament, O'Connell had presented a petition from Ireland for the repeal of the Legislative Union. He gave notice that he had 196 petitions to present, on the same subject, signed by 387,864 persons. The subject of Irish affairs had been brought before Parliament, in the House of Commons, by Lord John Russell, arraigning the action of the Government.

O'Connell participated in the debate, and was replied to by Sir Robert Peel.

When O'Connell arose, the House was crowded, and the Morning Chronicle says—

His voice, as of old, was full and round-toned; his bearing confident, undaunted, and firm; and though a considerable part of his speech consisted of documentary evidence, he attracted undivided attention. He recapitulated briefly, but expressively, the *Repeal* view of the question; recounted the state of Ireland and after the Union; recounted the history of the struggle, which, from the commencement of the present century, was carried on, until it culminated in the Emancipation; and depicted the state of Ireland, whose frightful condition, unjustly used as it had long been, was the true source of the power of the "demagogue."

After the reply of Peel, the House divided on the motion of Lord John Russell for a special committee, when the majority for ministers appeared to be 99.

A report was in circulation, that a large body of the "Evangelical Clergy" was about seceding from the Established Church.

General Thomas Thum had been astonished the "natives" in London.

A destructive fire broke out at Manchester, on the 2nd inst., and destroyed property to the value of 110,000. Another fire at Oxford, destroyed a great deal of property, and a wealthy Rabbi with his eldest daughter perished in the flames.

Incendiarism is on the increase in England. Travel from Liverpool to Birmingham, 98 miles, has been performed in 2 hours and 20 minutes.

The British Government has ordered the immediate employment of an additional force of non-commissioned officers and men belonging to the Royal Sappers and Miners under the Boundary Commissioner, Colonel Elcoun, in the Oregon territory.

The action of the French Admiral in taking possession of the Society Islands, had been disowned by the Government.

Italy was in an insurrectionary state. French emissaries, it is said, were at work.

Spain is yet convulsed with factions and bloody insurrections.

A revolt had taken place in Portugal, with a view to revolution, but it was soon suppressed.

In Syria, they were on the eve, it was supposed, of an insurrection.

All Polish emigrants have been ordered to leave Prussia. It is said that the Poles have been detected in communicating with Russian deserters.

The Northern parts of Albania, (Turkey,) are in a state of open revolt.

The war between the Rumanians and Circassians still continues.

On the whole, the Old World seems to be reeling to and fro, like a drunken man.

Monday, April 2, 1844.

Congress—Resolution for Adjournment—Texas and Oregon.

In the Senate, March 25th, several petitions were presented, and reports of Committees submitted.

A resolution, introduced by Mr. Bagby, for the appointment of a Standing Committee of five on the Territories, was adopted.

The resolution of Mr. Evans for adjournment of Congress, was agreed to, after substituting Monday, the 27th, for the 30th of May next.

It is hardly probable that the House will concur.

The report of the Committee on Finance, on the subject of the Tariff, was taken up, and Mr. Benton addressed the Senate at some length.

In the House, the regular business was the call of the States for resolutions. Mr. Black, leave given, reported from the Select Committee on Retrenchment, a bill to regulate the pay of the army, and for other purposes.

After the presentation of a few more resolutions, the Services finding that the next State in order was Ohio, made an effort to go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, but failed. The Speaker then proceeded with the call.

Mr. Giddings submitted three resolutions, asserting the right of the people to amend the Constitution, as secured in the 5th article of the instrument, that this right extends to the ratio of representation, and that every attempt to deny the right ought promptly to be condemned. The resolutions lie over under the rule one day.

A resolution was adopted directing the Speaker to appoint a member on the Select Committee on the Massachusetts resolutions in the place of Mr. Gilmer.

Cave Johnson moved a resolution that a Select Committee of nine members be appointed who shall have power to revise the rules and orders of the House as adopted, and that they have leave to report at any time. The resolutions lie over one day.

A motion to suspend the rules, to enable Mr. Hardin to offer a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for information in relation to the present receipts from customs, and his opinion as to what would be the receipts under the new tariff bill, failed, 84 yeas, 92 nays—two thirds not voting in its favor.

A similar motion in order to open the way for the introduction of a resolution to cede the public lands to the States in which they lie, was rejected, yeas 32, nays 131.

The Oregon and Texas questions were brought forward in a series of resolutions offered by Mr. Hughes, connecting the two questions. The resolutions affirmed the right of the United States to the Oregon territory from 42 to 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude—their duty to take possession, and organize a territorial government—and also that the annexation of Texas was expedient and conducive to the best interests of the country.

Mr. Ingersoll moved to lay the resolutions on the table—and Willis Green, of Kentucky, said he was in favor of the motion because he did not know how much land we were entitled to in Oregon. The resolutions were laid on the table by a vote of 106 to 66. The *National Intelligencer* remarks that it was not a test vote, because some voted against laying on the table, with a view of forcing a direct vote on the resolutions—and we may remark, that numbers sustained the motion to lay on the table, so as not to embarrass the negotiations on these important questions, which they think are safe enough in the hands of John C. Calhoun. No inference, then, with regard to the feelings of a majority of the House on the subject of annexation, can be drawn from this movement.

A resolution was adopted, 98 to 56, that the Committee of Ways and Means inquire into the expediency of authorizing the President to adopt the policy of reciprocity towards foreign nations, in relation to American pork, beef, grain and breadstuffs. A good resolution, we think.

Two resolutions were offered successively, to instruct the Select Committee on the Massachusetts resolutions, to report at a fixed day, &c., &c.—but one was laid over, and the other was laid upon the table. It is understood, says the reporter of the *Intelligencer*, that the Committee will report Tuesday, April 2d.

Mr. Saunders offered a resolution that it is expedient to fix a day for the adjournment, until the Texas and Oregon questions, and the Tariff and Retrenchment bills have been acted upon. The resolution was laid over for debate.

Mr. McKay, leave being given, brought in a bill authorizing the coinage of one dollar gold pieces.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Kennedy, embodying certain sentiments of General Jackson in 1824, in regard to the tariff. A motion to lay on the table was rejected only 18 voting in favor.

Mr. Brown moved to amend, by inserting instead, the sentiments of Henry Clay in 1841, expressed in a speech in which he insisted on the principles of the Compromise. The amendment was rejected, 82 yeas, 86 nays.

An adjournment was now moved, but the motion was rejected. Mr. Thompson moved to lay the subject on the table—pending which a motion was made to adjourn—and carried.

Negotiation with Mexico.

It is hardly hinted in some quarters, that a negotiation is on foot, having for its object, the ascent of Mexico to the annexation of Texas. We suppose it is true. There can be no doubt that, if necessary, to secure this object, the Administration would release her from all former claims we have upon her for damages done our Commerce. Mr. Calhoun's ability is lauded to the skies. Some of the Whig papers in the East are at a loss for words to express their admiration of his wonderful talents as a negotiator. We suppose these talents will all be directed, to adjust the Oregon question so as to conciliate England, and to negotiate with Mexico, so as to satisfy that Power, with a view to remove all difficulties out of the way of Annexation. This certainly will be his great object.

Fugitives and Murder.

According to the *Hanoverian*, (Miss.) Free Press, a company of Planters and Overseers lately turned out to hunt a band of runaways; three of whom escaped, one was shot dead, and two, after being seriously wounded, escaped! Such is the statement of the Free Press, copied into the New York Sun. It is but recently, we had an account in a Southern paper, of the murder of a runaway slave-girl.

The Texas plot contemplates the perpetration of a system which leads to, and legalizes, such brutality.

At this time, the autumn of 1833, I held slaves, the woman and child above mentioned, and five house servants. I was then and had been more than a year before, the advocate of the American Colonization Society. I do not now remember, that my view as to the right of the slave to his liberty, and the duty of his master to emancipate, were much in advance of those usually entertained by colonizationists.

Certain it is, I looked forward to no time, I anticipated no circumstances, which would ever bring me to a consideration that I now do. I had then no expectation that I should, at any period of my life deserve, the name of an abolitionist, or draw on me persecutions of sufficient rigor to

banish me from Kentucky, where I was born—persecutions, from which the Constitutional *Egis* of the free State of Ohio, has not yet availed to defend me.

Before breaking up my establishment in Alabama, I proposed to the woman, to send her and her child to Liberia, after she had by the services she had already performed, and by her future labors, returned me the price I had paid for her. She objected utterly to going to Liberia, and then she proposed to bring her with me to Kentucky, where, after being remunerated by her services for the sum I had paid for her, I would manumit her and her child, without any condition of removal—in the meantime, giving to the child such education as I could under varying circumstances. To this she, so far as herself was concerned, to my great surprise, objected—arguing that she was an entire stranger in Kentucky, and that she did not wish to leave the acquaintance she had made since her residence in Alabama.

Believing her conduct to be altogether judicious, I said to her, that whilst I felt no desire to compel her to either of the courses I had proposed, I could not permit her to make, for the child, the election of remaining behind. So far from being displeased at this, she expressed her full concurrence in saying, *leave her child, and I will take care of it, and every provision made for her to be hired—on account of the better treatment she would receive from a master, than a hirer.* I permitted her to select her own master in order that she might have no difficulty in inducing such an one as she might select, to purchase her, I put her price at eighty-five dollars, less than I had given for her and her child.

The advance on the price of negroes at this time would have enabled me to have sold her at a public sale for from seventy-five to one hundred dollars more than the sum I asked. The gentleman whom she selected—and of whose character for humanity to his slaves, I had received, on enquiry, satisfactory assurances—purchased her without hesitation. I was not informed of the sale until some days after it had taken place. I went to me—till she had rejected both my propositions leading to her ultimate manumission. I was afterwards told by my overseer, who was warmly attached to my interests, and who, I believe, thought that I was already somewhat fanciful in my desire to oblige the woman—who wanted me to sell her, believing that if I took her to Kentucky, I would finally emancipate her—that her conduct proceeded from an attachment she had formed for a negro man, who, he supposed, had persuaded her to object to every proposition which contemplated her removal from that part of the country. The little girl, her child, I brought with me, together with the domestic servants already mentioned, to Kentucky, in 1833.

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